

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently amended). A process for the preparation of amidic cross-linked polysaccharides containing carboxy groups in which the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acids, ~~carboxymethyldextran~~ carboxymethyldextran, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylstarch, alginic acids, cellulose acid, N-carboxy-methyl or butyl glucans or chitosans, heparins with different molecular weights, optionally ~~desulphated~~ desulphated and succinylated, dermatan sulphates, chondroitin sulphates and heparan sulphates comprising (a) activating the carboxy groups of the polysaccharide in an anhydrous aprotic solvent using a suitable carboxy activating agent; (b) reacting the carboxy activated polysaccharide with a polyamine selected from the group having the formula  $R_1-NH-A-NH-R_2$  wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen,  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, phenyl or benzyl groups; A is a  $C_2-C_{10}$  alkylene chain ~~which may be substituted by hydroxy, carboxy, halogen, alkoxy or amino groups;~~ a polyoxyalkylene chain of the formula  $[(CH_2)_n-O-CH_2]_m$  wherein n is 2 or 3 and m is an interger from 2 to 10; a  $C_5-C_7$  cycloalkyl group or an aryl or heteroaryl group; and (c) recovering the resultant cross-linked polysaccharide.

Claim 13 (Previously added). A process according to Claim 12 in which the carboxy-containing polysaccharide is a hyaluronic

acid salified with a lipophilic cation; the solvent is selected from tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide or dimethyl sulfoxide; the carboxy activating agent is chloromethylpyridylium iodide and the polyamine is one in which A of the formula  $R_1NH-A-R_2$  is a  $C_2-C_6$  linear alkylene chain.

Claim 14 (Previously added). A process according to Claim 13 in which the polyamine, diluted in a like solvent as used in the activation step, is added to the solution of activated polysaccharide to effect the cross-linking reaction in 1-12 hours.

Claim 15 (Previously added). A process according to Claim 13 in which the recovered cross-linked polysaccharide is sulphated by reaction with a pyridine-sulfur trioxide complex.

Claim 16 (Previously added). A process according to Claim 13 in which the recovered cross-linked polysaccharide is complexed with a metal ion selected from zinc, copper and iron.

Claim 17 (Currently amended) A cross-linked polysaccharide prepared according to the process of Claim 13 ~~characterized by various properties and physical shapes suitable~~ for use in varying medical and veterinarian applications.